

of the Journal.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Howard Lamb, please.

SENATOR LAMB: Yes, Mr. President, thank you. Members, this is an amendment to the budget bill which really was my bill, 1192, which failed to get out of the Appropriations Committee but it, out-and-out, provides \$150,000 to subsidize a bus route along northern Nebraska, from Norfolk to Chadron. The bill was co-sponsored by Senator Scofield, Senator Dierks and myself. This bus route is threatened from Norfolk west, Norfolk to Chadron and on up to Rapid City, South Dakota because they are losing money on that part of the route, and this is an attempt to keep that bus going temporarily for one year. There was \$220,000 of federal money, it was a demonstration grant, provided by the federal government last year and this money has been used to keep the bus going for this current year. There was \$40,000 of that \$220,000 was spent on a study of the route and what could be done about it. Now at this point, the Roads Department and the people in the area are hopeful that they can next year get some federal funding to keep the bus route going. This bus serves primarily the aging people, the infirmed, those that no longer drive, and those people who do not have cars. They are more the part of the population that really has trouble getting around, particularly in rural areas. Now I visited with almost all of you about this proposal in the last few days. Now currently on your desks, you have a chart. It says Table 2. It has a lot of numbers on it and this shows what the subsidies are for the various bus routes in the state, mostly within the towns and cities of the state. There is a million dollars that goes for the subsidizing...of state money that goes for subsidizing buses, bus routes at the present time. Now subsidizing transportation is not new. Subsidizing it in rural areas is somewhat new. Well, that is what I am asking. Currently, the million dollars is distributed as indicated on this chart. You start at the top, \$4,900 for South Sioux City, \$470,859 for Omaha, \$135,000 for Lincoln, \$8,000 for Fremont, on down the list, and the total is a million dollars. Now that money does come out of the Highway Trust Fund. I am not asking that this \$150,000 come out of the Highway Trust Fund, because if it does come out of there, then somebody suffers. Somebody would get...some city, some county, some road would be short that much money. So I am asking that this money come out of the General Fund for one year to subsidize this bus route across northern Nebraska. If there are questions about this proposal, I would